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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/729,103	12/05/2000	Kenzi Suzuki	200538US0	6416

22850 7590 12/12/2002

OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

MEDINA SANABRIA, MARIBEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1754

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2002

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/729,103

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

PL 10

Examiner

Maribel Medina

Art Unit

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 4-8 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 9.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-3, in Paper No. 9 (filed on 12/2/02) is acknowledged.

a. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "the claims of group IV are directly dependent from claims of Groups I-III." This is not found persuasive because Groups I-III are directed to 3 different catalysts, and Group IV is directed to a method of producing hydrogen gas using the catalyst of each of said Groups independently of each other. Each catalyst used in the process of Group IV represent and independent invention since the catalysts are different from each other as provided by their compositions.

b. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups I and II; Groups I and III; and, II and III as unrelated. However,... has still not provided sufficient reasons and or examples to support this assertion." This is not found persuasive because the claims of Groups I, II, and III are clearly directed to unrelated inventions as supported by the compositions of each catalyst claimed.

c. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "Groups I and IV; Groups II and IV; and Groups II and IV, the Office has characterized the relationship between these two groups as product and process of use..." This is not found persuasive because the process of Group IV can be practiced with three different products as instantly claimed.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US Patent No. 4,666,945 (Osugi et al).


Osugi et al discloses a method for producing a CuZnAlZr oxide catalyst, comprising the steps of: (a) adding a suitable precipitating agent to a mixed aqueous solution of water soluble copper-, zinc-, zirconium-, and aluminum- compounds to coprecipitate a mixture of water insoluble copper-, zinc-, zirconium-, and aluminum- compounds (See col. 3, lines 15-20; col. 4, lines 63-68; and col. 5, lines 1-2); (b) producing a precipitate (See col. 3, lines 20-30); (c) separating by filtration (see col. 4, lines 51-55) ; (d) washing (see col. 4, lines 51-55); (e) drying(see col. 4, lines 51-55); and (f) calcining (see col. 5, lines 64-68). The water soluble copper compound may be cupric nitrate (See col. 3, lines 55-56); the water soluble zinc compound may be zinc nitrate (See col. 3, line 63), the water soluble zirconium compound may be zirconium oxynitrate (see col. 4, lines 1-2), and the water soluble aluminum compound may be aluminum nitrate (see col. 5, line 11). The precipitating agent includes sodium carbonate and sodium hydroxide (See col. 4, lines 19-33).


In regards to claim 2 the limitation " $(\text{Cu} + \text{Zn})/(\text{Al} + \text{Zr}) = 2 \text{ to } 4$ " is provided by Table 1 Examples 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 which include the molecular ratio of the components before preparing the catalyst.

In regards to claims 3, Osugi et al clearly discloses the catalyst made by the process of claims 1 and 2. Therefore no difference is seen between the instantly claimed invention and Osugi et al.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner Maribel Medina. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Examiner: Maribel Medina 
Tel: 703-305-1928
Fax: 703-872-9310
December 10, 2002


Stanley C. Silverman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1750